

CORRESPONDENCE

German Eugenics Exhibition

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—Mrs. Hodson and I have recently returned from Berlin, where we visited the great Exhibition of "The German People—German Work." Mrs. Hodson, as Honorary Secretary of the International Federation of Eugenic Organizations, of which Professor Rüdin, of Munich, is President, was an official representative of that body, and was able therefore to interview many influential people in the German eugenics world, and to gather much useful information as to how the German Sterilization Act is being carried out. She is producing a book on sterilization, which will contain this information, and is being published by Messrs. C. A. Watts & Co. this month (see p. 150).

The Exhibition was opened with great éclat by Herr Goebbels. In his opening oration he declaimed against Marxismus, which he said was dead—in Germany at any rate—but he appeared to be very much preoccupied with the corpse. The Exhibition itself is an enormous affair—both in quantity and quality. It is mainly an industrial show, like the *Daily Mail* "Ideal Home," but it is far more ambitious and instructive. You enter a great hall hung with banners and guarded by medieval musketeers on the one side and the S.S. and the S.A. on the other. There are enormous and extremely telling, if sometimes somewhat crude, captions on all the walls, and you are at once informed that in order to guide the Future, and understand the Present, of Germany, you must know her Past. Then follows an historical pageant, glorifying the Greatness of Germany—the Conqueror of the Roman Empire and founder of a wonderful culture 500 B.C. "Germans must never regard their ancestors as barbarians." The three Empires are portrayed at some length by map, diagram and picture. They are, of course: (1) The Empire of the Middle Ages; (2) The Empire of Bismarck; and (3) The Empire of Adolf Hitler.

After the historical pageant, you are told further that in order to understand the German people and their work you must know their biological foundations—and then follows a Eugenic Section of the deepest interest, extremely well set out and on the whole very fair. For example, there is comparatively little about the Jews, and the point stressed is that alien races are all right in themselves and provided they keep themselves to themselves, but that they must not be allowed to "poison the good German blood." Their main grievance, which is described in two separate parts of the Exhibition as "the saddest betrayal of the white race," is the problem of the 600 black bastards on the Rhine. Of these unfortunate

children there were a number of photographs (and they are not unattractive to look at), over which was inscribed: "The occupation of the Rhine is at an end, 600 black bastards remain." These were said to be the result of "black Frenchmen," and to constitute "the invasion of the black races in Europe."

But even a grievance such as this—large as it may loom—is recognized as a side issue. By far the largest part of this section is taken up by population problems of various kinds—the fall in and the differential birth-rate, and the growing burden of taxation to support the infirm, the aged* and the mentally defective. The method of working and the necessity of the German Sterilization Act is most efficiently set out at great length—much too long to describe here—but diagrams may be seen at the offices of this *Society*. This section ends with the warning that the law for the protection of posterity must not be confused with the law for the punishment of sexual crimes, and describes the difference between sterilization and castration.

May I end with three from amongst the many striking captions:

1. "Which is best? To build decent homes for our healthy people—or country estates for our lunatics?"
2. "A sound people can be enslaved, oppressed, dismembered—but not exterminated. A nation can only be blotted out and exterminated by its own unfruitfulness. That is the most dangerous enemy of any people."
3. "The only group which still has a preponderance of births over deaths is that of the hereditarily diseased. Ever more and more they propagate themselves in the body of the German people."

Much space is devoted to many other aspects of this great problem, and notably to the "Law for promoting marriages." One final quotation: "The State population policy is not at an end with these measures—many problems remain over for solution."

Comment is superfluous.

URSULA GRANT DUFF.

London.

Genetics of Intellect

To the Editor, Eugenics Review

SIR,—I believe that several psychologists who, like myself, listened at the Leicester B.A.A.S. meeting to Dr. Hurst's paper on "The Genetics of Intellect" (which you have just published),

* Now more than double the proportion in 1900 to the whole population.